

thousands of individuals in lower-Manhattan who were denied aid because they didn't fit into rigid standards adopted by FEMA.

In recent weeks, several of us in the New York delegation, with Chairman YOUNG and Ranking Member OBEY on the Appropriations Committee, have tried to ensure that the needs of New York are addressed as it recovers from the terrorist attacks of September 11th.

And as a representative of New York City, I wish to thank the Appropriations Committee for its work on behalf of New York.

The Committee is truly a friend of New York and we appreciate your work and commitment.

But FEMA has shown a clear inability to streamline the delivery of aid to New York when it is not given clear direction through statements of intent from Congress.

As the supplemental appropriations bill advances today, several concerns remain outstanding about the timeliness of the response from FEMA on a number of issues—including the need for funding for New York City's public school system to make up lost class time, to pay for crisis counseling to students who experienced trauma, and for the reimbursement of several direct expenses to the school system.

In addition, the City of New York faces significant costs in overtime pay to emergency workers, police officers, fire fighters, and law enforcement personnel as a result of 9/11.

FEMA at this time, is not reimbursing the city for these costs and there have been problems with overly restrictive rules as well as interpretations for eligibility for direct assistance.

The lesson is clear—if funds are appropriated for FEMA without clear directives on its use, large portions of 9/11 aid meant for those in need will languish in bureaucratic red tape for months on end.

Recently we have started to see a vast improvement in FEMA's response, particularly with the annulment of its decision that New York University would not qualify for assistance.

We now have a choice: we can hope that this glimmer of good judgment magically reverses a pattern of problems with FEMA, or we can ensure that the aid appropriated by this Congress is actually delivered to those in

need, by accepting the Senate version of this bill in conference committee, which specifically directs FEMA to allocate funds for the people and institutions in New York that have been wrongly denied so far.

I would hope that this Congress does everything in its power to ensure that the money we intend to go to the people of New York for recovery, is actually given to the people of New York who need it.

HONORING AN ORANGE COUNTY
WAR HERO

HON. CHRISTOPHER COX

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 24, 2002

Mr. COX. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of a true American hero and a long time resident of Irvine, California, United States Marine Corps Colonel William E. Barber. Col. Barber passed away at the age of 82 this past April and will be buried today at Arlington National Cemetery with full military honors.

Born in West Liberty, Kentucky, on November 30, 1919, he attended Morehouse State College in Kentucky and enlisted with the Marines in 1940. Col. Barber won distinction on the battlefield in World War II, Korea, and Vietnam. As a young Second Lieutenant fighting on the beaches of Iwo Jima in 1943, Col. Barber was wounded twice, earning himself a Purple Heart as well as a Silver Star for bravery.

Col. Barber is perhaps best known, though, for his valor above and beyond the call of duty, during the Korean War, in one of our military's worst defeats—the battle for the Chosin Reservoir. As 120,000 Chinese troops swept across the Yalu River to aid their North Korean allies, Col. Barber and the U.S. forces were forced to fight through bitterly cold temperatures and to retreat in the face of overwhelming opposition. At the time, Col. Barber was a seasoned Captain in command of F (Fox) Company, 2d Battalion 7th Marines, 1st Marine Division.

Fox Company and its 220 men were assigned to defend a three-mile stretch of moun-

tain pass along the division supply line—the only route of retreat for 8,000 Marines being overrun at Yudam-ni in the Chosin Reservoir and who were attempting to retreat to Hagaru-ri. Outnumbered 5 to 1 by enemy forces for five days and six nights, Col. Barber and the men of Fox Company fought a ferocious battle to keep control over the mountain pass. After two attempts by reinforcements to reach Col. Barber's isolated position were thwarted, he risked complete annihilation by remaining to hold his position rather than abandon the pass and strand the Marines in Yudam-ni. Despite being severely wounded in the leg, Col. Barber continued to lead, often from a stretcher, through the bitter fighting. After almost a week of constant fighting only 82 of the original 220 men of Fox Company could walk out under their own power. They had accounted for approximately 1000 enemy dead and held their position, but suffered dearly for their valiant actions.

With this selfless act of bravery in the face of danger, Col. Barber became one of the only soldiers during the Korean War to be awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor—the highest military award a member of our armed forces can attain.

After retiring from the Army, Col. Barber moved to Orange County, California where he and his wife of 60 years, lone, lived and worked as proud members of our community, supporting veterans and youth activities at every opportunity. Col. Barber was known by everyone as a humble and unassuming man—a man who did not need to boast of his military exploits or service to his country. He was a regular speaker at Memorial Day events, and often enjoyed leading groups of 5th graders in discussion at the annual "Walk of Honor" events held at the Hall of Administration in Santa Ana, California.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to have represented this man of honor, one who so bravely answered his country's call three times. I am also honored to have had the opportunity to remember him today as he is buried in our nation's National Cemetery alongside so many other American heroes. This was a man who truly went above and beyond the call of duty for his country.